

To: Herrera, Angeles[Herrera.Angeles@epa.gov]
From: Ball, Harold
Sent: Thur 8/13/2015 4:07:05 PM
Subject: Mine details we were discussing

We were talking about this yesterday. This is what I read from the EPA site that may be of interest. No update since 08/10 (???)

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/updates-epas-response-2015-release-gold-king-mine>

August 7, 2015

On August 5, 2015, EPA was conducting an investigation of the Gold King Mine. The intent of the investigation was to assess the on-going water releases from the mine and to treat mine water and to assess the feasibility of further mine remediation. The plan was to excavate the loose material that had collapsed into the cave entry back to the timbering. During the excavation, the loose material gave way, opening the adit (mine tunnel) and spilling the water stored behind the collapsed material into Cement Creek, a tributary of the Animas River.

August 8, 2015

◦Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) officials have been monitoring the effects of the spill on terrestrial and aquatic wildlife since the incident began. CPW is watching for any impacts on wildlife, whether they are acute or chronic. Fish are especially sensitive to changes in water quality. CPW is also monitoring a control station on a clean tributary.

◦Colorado Parks and Wildlife has indicated they are optimistic that the effects of the spill on terrestrial wildlife will be minimal.

August 10, 2015

The assessment of impacts to wildlife and fish populations is ongoing. To date we have seen no indication of widespread fish mortality in the Animas or San Juan. Fish cages placed directly in the Animas River by the State of Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife for two days indicate one mortality out of 108 fish tested. The State will be evaluating those and other ecological impacts with partners as we move forward. EPA is also working with the New Mexico Department of Game Fish and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to investigate reports of impacts to wildlife.

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Some photos of adit with release sequence here:

http://epaosc.org/site/image_zoom.aspx?site_id=11082&counter=248597

http://epaosc.org/site/image_zoom.aspx?site_id=11082&counter=248598

http://epaosc.org/site/image_zoom.aspx?site_id=11082&counter=248608

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http://epaosc.org/site/image_zoom.aspx?site_id=11082&counter=248701

http://epaosc.org/site/image_zoom.aspx?site_id=11082&counter=248703

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